

Strategic Priority 1: Maintain the ecological function of the Mekong River system

Mekong River Basin Indicators	Status, Needs & Issues	Outcomes	Outputs	Comments
<p>- Water flow conditions in the mainstream</p> <p>- Condition of riverine, estuarine and coastal habitats</p>	<p>SOBR: Managing impact of decreased wet season flows, increased dry season flows and increased water level fluctuations; take urgent action to better manage remaining assets and fisheries; continue monitoring</p> <p>Basin Needs & Issues: Better river flow management. Lack design and management of hydropower cascades.</p> <p>MTR: Focus on uptake of outputs and adopting TbEIA and PDG</p>	<p>1.1 River flows support a healthy environment and productive riparian communities`</p>	<p>1.1.1 Water flow conditions in the mainstream managed within agreed limits</p> <p>1.1.2 Impact assessment and mitigation guidance and measures for sustainable hydropower implemented</p>	
<p>- Changes in sediment transport</p> <p>- Condition of riverine, estuarine and coastal habitats</p>	<p>SOBR: Address the impacts of reduced sediment concentrations to better manage sediment flows and better mitigate transboundary impacts of reduced concentrations; continue monitoring</p> <p>CS: Projected changes in sediment transport due to water resources development</p> <p>SHDS: Opportunities to avoid, minimise or mitigate adverse transboundary impacts</p> <p>Basin Needs & Issues: Lack regional sediment management mechanism and plan</p> <p>MTR: Further work needed on emergency response aspect of PWQ</p>	<p>1.2 Sediment transport helps mitigate bank erosion and land subsidence</p>	<p>1.2.1 Basin-wide sediment management plan developed and implemented</p> <p>1.2.2 Water quality managed to meet guidelines for relevant parameters</p>	
<p>- Extent of wetland area</p> <p>- Condition of riverine, estuarine and coastal habitats</p> <p>- Condition and status of ecologically significant areas</p>	<p>BEMS: Identifying limits of acceptable change for 12 priority environmental assets</p> <p>Other: priority joint projects include watershed management; MC concerns about flash flooding; SDGs to finance mobilisation for conservation incl. reforestation; addressing water level fluctuations</p> <p>Basin Needs & Issues: National projects of basin-wide significance, such as: watershed projects (for flow maintenance, enhancing the lifetime of storage reservoirs and contributing to reducing GHG); the preservation of wetlands including riverine habitats (for enhancing ecosystem services, biodiversity, capture fisheries, and tourism);</p>	<p>1.3 River and wetland habitats and watersheds provide important ecosystem services</p>	<p>1.3.1 Basin planning informed by limits of acceptable change for key river and connected wetland habitats</p> <p>1.3.2 A regional planning and regulatory management framework for watersheds agreed and implemented</p>	

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Mekong River Basin Indicators	Status, Needs & Issues	Outcomes	Outputs	Comments
<p>- Condition and status of fisheries and other aquatic resources</p>	<p>SOBR: Signs of overfishing; Need for joint strategies and action plans for fisheries; continue monitoring</p> <p>CS: Projected changes in fish populations and species mix due to development impacts</p> <p>BFMS: Focus on conservation of key habitats, fisheries co-management, fisheries enhancement, aquaculture development, monitoring, studying and risk mitigation for mainstream dams; improve national water resources development and management; need for guidelines</p>	<p>1.4 Fish populations support food security and livelihoods of dependent people</p>	<p>1.4.1 Basin fisheries managed sustainably</p> <p>1.4.2 Risks to capture fish productivity and biodiversity minimised</p> <p>1.4.3 Adaptation measures implemented in response to changes in fish populations and catch composition</p>	

Strategic Priority 2: Enable inclusive utilisation of the basin's water and water-related resources

Mekong Basin Indicators	Status, Needs & Issues	Outcomes	Outputs	Comments
<p>- Food Security</p> <p>- Water Security</p> <p>- Access to electricity</p>	<p>SOBR: More information needed to understand how living conditions and wellbeing are impacted by water resources development; develop and implement DAGAP; social data collection needs to be a core function</p> <p>CS: Projected changes in fisheries and risks to food security due to water resources development</p> <p>Other: SDG 6 on access to clean water and sanitation; addressing gender equality; lag in access to clean water and electricity in rural areas, malnutrition very high in some areas</p> <p>Basin Needs & Issues: The trade-offs between the economic and environmental dimensions of water resources development regional planning has been generally limited to assessing the acceptability of the transboundary impacts of national plans, formulated largely in isolation from the other riparian countries.</p>	<p>2.1 Basin communities are food, water and energy secure, strengthening climate resilience</p>	<p>2.1.1 Access and supply of safe water to people in vulnerable situations improved</p> <p>2.1.2 The gender and vulnerability aspects of basin water, food and energy security are identified and addressed by policy makers</p>	
<p>- Employment in LMRB water-related sectors</p> <p>- Economic security</p> <p>- Gender equality in employment and economic engagement</p>	<p>SOBR: Need for spatially disaggregated and gender disaggregated data; to develop gender-balanced development strategies; more information needed to understand how livelihoods are impacted; develop and implement DAGAP</p> <p>CS: Projected impacts on poor, resource dependent communities in different river reaches</p> <p>Basin Needs & Issues: To operationalize proactive regional planning</p>	<p>2.2 Employment and livelihoods of both men and women reduce poverty and inequality through less direct dependence on river and wetland resources</p>	<p>2.2.1 Alternative livelihood strategies for poor, resource dependent communities impacted by water resources development developed and mainstreamed at national levels</p>	

Strategic Priority 3: Enhance sustainable development by increasing regional benefits and decreasing regional costs

Mekong Basin Indicators	Status, Needs & Issues	Outcomes	Outputs	Comments
<p>- Contribution of LMRB water-related sectors to basin, national and regional GDP</p> <p>- Contribution of LMRB water-related sectors to food and energy supply</p>	<p>SOBR: Adoption of pro-active regional planning to promote optimal and <i>equitable</i> development through increased cooperation and to identify opportunities for both socio-economic development and environmental protection consistent with these aims</p> <p>CS: Projected impacts of planned water resource development have high trade-offs, likely to be suboptimal</p> <p>SHDS: Document alternative hydropower development strategies for more optimal and sustainable development; opportunities to enhance benefits beyond national borders and avoid, minimise or mitigate adverse transboundary impacts</p> <p>Basin Needs & Issues: To operationalize proactive regional planning and more cooperative Joint projects.</p>	<p>3.1 The economic growth of each country and the region is higher as a result of proactive regional planning</p>	<p>3.1.1 National plans are informed by the findings of a proactive regional planning approach</p> <p>3.1.2 Significant joint projects and national projects of basin-wide significance identified, and project preparation in progress</p>	

Strategic Priority 3: Enhance sustainable development by increasing regional benefits and decreasing regional costs

Mekong Basin Indicators	Status, Needs & Issues	Outcomes	Outputs	Comments
<p>- Economic value of LMRB water-related sectors</p>		<p>3.2 Enhanced value from key economic sectors including agriculture, hydropower, navigation, environment and fisheries, through implementation of regional strategies</p>	<p>3.2.1 Investment and associated measures in irrigated agriculture implemented</p> <p>3.2.2 Sustainable hydropower development strategy and related regional energy plans implemented in synergy</p> <p>3.2.3 Investment and associated measures in basin navigation plans implemented in synergy</p> <p>3.2.4 Investment and associated measures in regional environmental strategies and programmes implemented in synergy</p> <p>3.2.5 Investment and associated measures in regional fisheries strategies and plans implemented</p>	

Strategic Priority 4: Ensure water security by mitigating floods and droughts

Mekong Basin Indicators	Status, Needs & Issues	Outcomes	Outputs	Comments
<p>- Flood protection measures</p> <p>- Drought protection measures</p>	<p>SOBR: Adoption of pro-active regional planning to address climate change and promote optimal and equitable development through increased cooperation; continued monitoring and assessment of current and potential future impacts; adaptation factored into basin planning</p> <p>MASAP: transboundary adaptation measures; develop new transboundary adaptation projects</p> <p>MTR: Operational coordination; need for cascade operating rules; data sharing and response protocols for reservoir operations</p> <p>Basin Needs & Issues: Better management of emergencies and hydropower cascades.</p>	<p>4.1 There is sufficient flow in the dry season to support livelihood activities and mitigate salinity intrusion; and reduced flood peaks in the wet season through strategic use of natural and constructed infrastructure</p>	<p>4.1.1 Significant joint projects and national projects of basin-wide significance to adapt to climate change by reducing the impacts of flood and drought, identified and assessed</p> <p>4.1.2 Coordinated reservoir operations for flood and drought mitigation</p>	
<p>- Vulnerability to floods, droughts and storms</p>	<p>SOBR: Continued hydro-meteorological monitoring; continued climate change monitoring</p> <p>ISP: Severe impacts from uncoordinated floodplain planning</p> <p>MTR: Operational coordination, enhanced flood management and mitigation capabilities, forecasting and early warning; communications</p>	<p>4.2 Basin communities are better prepared for more frequent and severe floods and droughts as a result of climate change</p>	<p>4.2.1 Cooperative socio-economic and spatial planning on the floodplain</p> <p>4.2.2 Integrated basin-wide early warning and emergency response system implemented</p> <p>4.2.3 Climate adaptation, including measures to adapt to flood and drought, mainstreamed at national levels</p>	

	<p>protocols for dam safety</p> <p>MASAP: Enhance monitoring, data collection and sharing, forecasting and early warning, promote awareness and mainstreaming of BWAs and update national plans and policies; climate proof MRC sectoral strategies</p> <p>DMS: Improvement of drought monitoring (incl. groundwater), forecasting and early warning</p>	
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Strategic Priority 5: Strengthen cooperation among all basin countries and stakeholders

Mekong Basin Indicators	Status, Needs & Issues	Outcomes	Outputs	Comments
<p>- Proportion of benefits derived from cooperation relative to total net economic value (Cost of cooperation relative to value created and delivered)</p>	<p>Basin Needs & Issues: Alignment of the MRC and LMC Water Resources Cooperation.</p>	<p>5.1 Higher benefits and lower costs from the integrated management of the entire river system</p>	<p>5.1.1 Consensus on the future institutional arrangements for basin management</p>	
<p>- Proportion of MRC budget funded by national contributions</p>	<p>MTR: Enhancement of procedures incl. PDIES, PWUM, PNPCA; strengthen capacity building for decentralisation including through country-to-country mechanisms; organisational capacity development for MRC</p> <p>Basin Needs & Issues: Better management of emergencies, data sharing, information technologies (Mekong Management System).</p> <p>To improve management of the mainstream, this strategy promotes that a core monitoring network of stations and sampling locations on the Mekong mainstream and main tributaries will be managed by the MRC. MRC will establish a central monitoring coordination function to promote harmonization across the region and support the basin countries in the collection and storage of various types of data: hydro-meteorological, discharge and sediments, water quality, fish catch and effort, riverine health (plankton, invertebrates etc.), and on wetland and forest habitats.</p> <p>MTR: review of core monitoring network; upgrade information systems and modelling capability; advance cooperation with LMC</p>	<p>5.2 A Strengthened Mekong River Commission supports the achievement of higher regional benefits, lower regional costs and increased water security</p>	<p>5.2.1 Implementation of the 1995 Mekong Agreement procedures enhanced</p> <p>5.2.2 A core water-related monitoring network for the mainstream and remaining water-related monitoring networks consolidated</p> <p>5.2.3 Compatible Decision Support Systems with reinvigorated data and information management and sharing, modelling, forecasting, and communication</p> <p>5.2.4 Organisational development of the Mekong River Commission</p>	

Strategic Priority 5: Strengthen cooperation among all basin countries and stakeholders

Mekong Basin Indicators	Status, Needs & Issues	Outcomes	Outputs	Comments
	<p>All Regional Strategies: Strengthen capacity building – drought, climate change adaptation, flood management and mitigation, fisheries, environmental management</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joint efforts on projects of basin-wide significance and with potential transboundary impacts - Extent of knowledge sharing activities - Partnerships between the MRC and other parties 	<p>MTR: clarify MRC’s role with changing landscape of regional cooperation; enhance dialogue and engagement with broader stakeholders;</p> <p>MASAP: MRC to support and help access to climate change financing</p> <p>MASAP: strengthen cooperation with ASEAN and MLC on climate change</p> <p>Other: reinvigoration of decision support and data management systems; enhanced cooperation between MRC and LMC through MoU</p>	<p>5.3 Cooperation among all relevant regional water-related mechanisms based on need and complementary strengths</p>	<p>5.3.1 Areas of complementary strength identified, integrated into each mechanism’s strategic and work planning processes and implemented</p> <p>5.3.2 Joint State of Basin Report and Basin Development Strategy</p> <p>5.3.3 Joint Basin Expert Groups</p> <p>5.3.4 Harmonised basin-wide stakeholder platform</p>	